

# **Exhibit A**

CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
BRAD RAFFENSPERGER

(Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Sections 50-13-3, 50-13-4, and 50-13-6.)

I do hereby certify that the attached Rule Amendment is a correct copy as promulgated and adopted on the day of January 22, 2020.

**RULES OF THE STATE ELECTION BOARD**

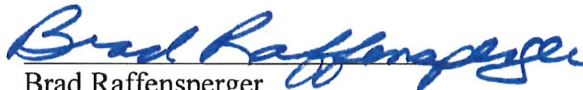
FILED: January 23, 2020

*Rule 183-1-15-.02 "Definition of Vote" is hereby amended as attached hereto.*

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-2, 21-2-31, 21-2-133, 21-2-439, 21-2-483

This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2020.

  
Brad Raffensperger  
Secretary of State  
Chairman, State Election Board

Sworn and subscribed before me this 23 day of  
January, 2020.



Notary Public:

My commission expires:

JOHN HALLMAN  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
FULTON COUNTY  
State of Georgia  
My Commission Expires December 6, 2021

**RULES  
OF  
THE STATE ELECTION BOARD**

**CHAPTER 183-1  
GEORGIA ELECTION CODE**

**SUBJECT 183-1-15  
RETURNS OF PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS**

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Rule 183-1-15-.02 Definition of a Vote

**183-1-15-.02 Definition of Vote**

(1) Lever-type Voting Machines. A vote cast on a lever-type voting machine shall be the choice made by a voter by either operating the lever adjacent to the name of the candidate or answer to a question for which the voter desires to vote or by writing of the name of a qualified write-in candidate on the machine in accordance with the instructions for voting on the voting machine and then recording such votes on the machine by the actuation of the main lever which casts such votes and returns the other levers to their original positions.

(2) Optical Scan Voting Systems.

- (a) A vote cast on an optical scan ballot marked by hand shall be the choice made by a voter by either:
  - 1. Filling in the oval adjacent to the name of the candidate or answer to a question for which the voter desires to vote; or
  - 2. Filling in the oval adjacent to the appropriate write-in space and writing the name of a qualified write-in candidate in the appropriate space on the ballot as specified in the instructions for voting such ballot.
- (b) In reviewing an optical scan ballot marked by hand which has been rejected as containing an overvote in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-483(g)(2), if the voter filled in the oval next to the name of a candidate whose name appears on the ballot and filled in the oval adjacent to the write-in space and wrote the name of the same candidate in the write-in space for the same office, the properly cast vote shall be counted and the write-in vote shall be ignored.
- (c) If, in reviewing an optical scan ballot marked by hand which has been rejected as containing an overvote in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-483(g)(2), it appears that there is a properly cast vote and what is clearly a stray mark which has caused

the ballot scanner to read the vote for such office as an overvote, the properly cast vote shall be counted and the stray mark shall be ignored.

- (d) If, in reviewing an optical scan ballot marked by hand which has been rejected as containing an overvote in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-483(g)(2), a voter marks his or her ballot in a manner other than that specified by law and this rule, the votes shall be counted if, in the opinion of the vote review panel as provided in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-483(g)(2)(B), the voter has clearly and without question indicated the candidate or candidates and answers to questions for which such voter desires to vote.
- (e) When an optical scan ballot marked by hand contains stray marks or marks which prevent the ballot scanner from properly recording valid votes as determined under this rule and by law, the ballot shall be duplicated in accordance with law to correct such problems and the duplicate shall then be tabulated.
- (f) In lieu of manually duplicating a ballot pursuant to paragraph (e), the manual review of ballots with overvotes by vote review panels pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-483(g) may be done by reviewing a digital image of the ballot and electronically adjudicating the intent of the voter, if such determination is recorded on the digital image of the ballot.
- (g) When an optical scan ballot marked by an electronic ballot marker contains marks added, in addition to what was printed by the electronic ballot marker, the additional marks shall be ignored.

### (3) Paper Ballots.

(a) A vote cast on a paper ballot that is not counted by an optical scan system (i.e. in certain municipal elections) shall be a choice made by a voter by either:

- 1. Placing an "X", a check, or other similar mark in the square adjacent to the name of the candidate or answer to a question for which the voter desires to vote; or
  - 2. Writing the name of a qualified write-in candidate in the appropriate space on the ballot as specified in the instructions for voting such ballot.
- (b) If a voter marks his or her paper ballot in a manner other than that specified by law and this rule, the votes shall be counted if, in the opinion of the poll officers as provided in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-439, the voter has clearly and without question indicated the candidate or candidates and answers to questions for which such voter desires to vote.
  - (c) If the voter marked the square next to the name of a candidate whose name appears on the ballot and wrote in the name of the same candidate in the write-in space for

the same office, the properly cast vote shall be counted and the write-in vote shall be ignored.

- (4) Write-in Votes. In no event shall votes cast for write-in candidates who have not qualified in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-133 be counted or recorded.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-2, 21-2-31, 21-2-133, 21-2-439, 21-2-483